

Item 9. Racism, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

US Policies and Islamophobia

Mr. President,

Islamophobia is not a hidden phenomenon anymore and has turned into a common feature of contemporary political discourse. The phobia is partly fueled by the media coverage of the statements made by political figures who shape the public opinion, exacerbating xenophobic feelings leading to violent behavior.

High frequency of Islamophobic rhetoric in political figures remarks led to an unprecedented increase of Muslims harassments incidents.^{1 2 3} The uncalculated nature of the remarks are also reflected in the tweeter message to London mayor following the deadly attacks.⁴

Xenophobic expressions have been frequently referred to as sources of serious concern by the UN officials including the UN HC António Guterres⁵, Ban Ki Moon⁶, UN SRs^{7 8 9 10 11}.

Mr. President,

Recognizing the UN principles, our organization echoes the UN officials' remarks against xenophobic expressions that violate international human rights law¹².

We call on the HRC to study the best practices of countering politicians' hate speech which is setting a new precedent in official violation of UN standards.

¹ . <http://www.islamophobia.org/2-uncategorised/182-anti-muslim-bias-incidents-post-election.html>

² . <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/11/20/us/hate-crime-unit-new-york/>

³ . <http://www.chronicle.co.zw/anti-muslim-groups-tripled-in-us-since-trump-campaign/>

⁴ . <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/06/03/politics/donald-trump-london-travel-ban/index.html>

⁵ . <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55983#.WJ6rQnGUeSx>

⁶ . http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/21-Apr_Refugees-and-Migrants-21-April-2016.pdf

⁷ . SR on "Minority Rights" www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/.../A_HRC_28_64_ENG.doc;

www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/.../A_HRC_28_64_Add_1_en.doc

⁸ . SR on "Freedom of Religion" www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/.../A_HRC_28_66_ENG.doc

⁹ . SR on "Contemporary Forms of Racism" <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55736#.WISVSHGUeSw>
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gashc4182.doc.htm>

¹⁰ . SR on "Human Rights of Migrants" <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2016/nov/18/australias-immigration-policies-have-promoted-xenophobia-un-expert>

¹¹ . SR on "Freedom of Opinion" <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/501/25/PDF/N1250125.pdf?OpenElement>

¹² . <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-muslim-travel-ban-illegal-un-rights-chief-a7552991.html>

We call on the Special Procedures to create a database and record all cases of Islamophobia and the relationship between “politicians’ hateful remarks” and “escalation of hate crimes against minorities”.

We call on all member states to sanction the use of hateful remarks by political figures who shape public opinion and trigger hate crimes.